Power generation through Atomic Energy

†308. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atomic energy accounts for a very small part of the total power generation;

(b) the status of India in comparison to other countries in respect of power generation utilising atomic energy; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in our country the plants generating power utilising atomic energy are laess efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The current share of nuclear power in the total electricity generation in the country is about 3%

(b) The world average share of nuclear power is about 16%. While developed countries like France, Sweden, Germany, Japan and USA have nuclear share ranging from 78% to 20%, the share of nuclear power of some of the developing counries like Brazil and China is comparable to that of India. The share of nuclear power is country specific depending upon other available energy options.

(c) No Sir. The nuclear power plants in the country are quite efficient. The nuclear share in the total generation in the country is on account of a small capacity base of 2770 MWe (2.4% of the total generating capacity in the country).

Target to Achieve Rural Tele-Density

309. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken to achieve rural tele-density of the VPTs in all villages and to provide rural community plan by 2007; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.